



(Photo by Spc. Chris McCann, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs)

10th Mtn. Div. Soldiers visit Ali As-Salem school children

2nd Lt. Jeffrey Archer, 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, hands out felt-tip pens to children in the village of Ali As-Salem, Iraq, Nov. 22. Soldiers from the squadron distributed school supplies to students and teachers, fostering closer ties with the community.

Soldiers share Thanksgiving tradition with Iraqis

By Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie
2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. PAO

YUSUFIYAH, Iraq - In 1620, natives of England sailed to the Americas in hopes of a better future. When they arrived in America their first winter was devastating. At the beginning of the following fall, 46 of the original 102 Pilgrims who sailed on the Mayflower to America had died, making the harvest of 1621 a special occasion to the survivors.

To celebrate the harvest the

remaining colonists decided to have a feast and invite the Indians who had helped them survive their first year in America. This was the beginning of Thanksgiving celebrations to come.

On Nov. 23 Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, shared the true meaning of Thanksgiving with the Iraqi soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division.

"Last night I invited the Iraqi soldiers

to come share Thanksgiving with us," said Capt. Christopher McDonald, a native of Sterling, N.Y., who serves as a 4-31 staff officer. "I figured since we train and fight together then we might as well eat together."

The Iraqi soldiers, who had never eaten in the 4-31 dining facility before, scooped up the traditional Thanksgiving food - turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie -

3rd BCT gets patches

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq -- Soldiers from the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division partook in an U.S. Army tradition for deployed Soldiers -- the presentation of the combat patch.

The combat patch is awarded to Soldiers who are deployed to combat zones for a period of 30 days or more. Grey Wolf, who deployed at the beginning of October, is currently stationed in the Diyala province of Iraq.

The 215th Brigade Support Battalion and the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, held separate ceremonies on Nov. 19 and 20 at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, placing the 1st Cavalry Division patch on the right side of the Soldiers' uniform to symbolize their service.

Each Soldier will forever be able to place the "First Team" patch on their Army

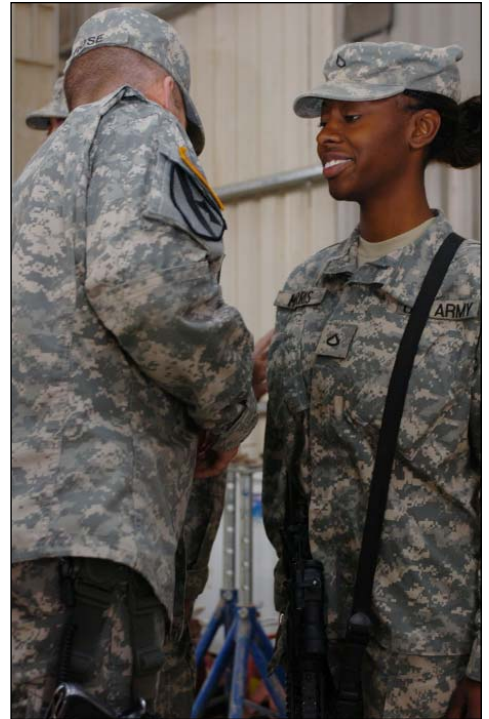
Combat Uniforms and their Class A uniforms.

"It's a symbol of being a veteran," said Lt. Col. Michael Rose, commander of the 3rd BSTB. "The unit insignia stays with that Soldier no matter what future assignments they have."

"Any time that you are in a unit that goes through war together, the cohesion in that unit is great," he continued. "The combat patch is almost like a rally symbol and a shared bonding experience."

"The patch that is placed on the right shoulder signifies that Soldiers place in history," said Lt. Col. Ronald Kirklin, 215th BSB commander.

"The patch is also a reminder to [the Soldiers] and their families about the sacrifices of freedom at home and abroad," he added. "It is a reminder of the friends and comrades that were there beside you. It will remind you that everything worth fighting for comes with a price, though some greater than others."



(Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3rd BCT, Public Affairs)

Lt. Col. Michael Rose, commander of the 3rd BSTB, 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., places a combat patch on Pfc. Lashunda Morris, 3rd BSTB.

**Arabic Phrase
of the Day**
titkallam
Ingiliizi?

Defined:
**Do you speak
English?**

Iraq 3-Day Forecast



Today

**High: 68
Low: 46**



Tomorrow

**High: 68
Low: 47**



Monday

**High: 64
Low: 46**

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(Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Comedian entertains troops at Warhorse

Comedian and actor Christopher Titus performs for the Soldiers of the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at Sallie Gym on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Nov. 18. "If I can come out here and make [the Soldiers] laugh for an hour and a half, then that's great," said Titus.

Cav. families come together for Thanksgiving

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Killeen Daily Herald

FORT HOOD, TX - Col. Mike Tarvin, III Corps chaplain, wore a stole Wednesday given to him by a World War II chaplain.

Tarvin spoke at the 1st Cavalry Division rear command's Thanksgiving celebration, saying the retired chaplain wore the stole, which is a scarf-like cloth worn around the neck, during the invasion of Normandy. Tarvin got to know the retired chaplain almost 10 years ago when he was stationed at Fort Lewis.

The Thanksgiving celebra-

tion started with a church service at the 1st Cavalry Division Memorial Chapel Wednesday morning and was followed with a Thanksgiving Dinner at the 1st Brigade's dining facility, complete with elaborate decorations like sculptures made out of chocolate, butter and ice.

Dining facility workers molded a helmet, boots and weapon out of chocolate to replicate a Soldier memorial and carved ice into the 1st Cavalry logo. An empty place setting in honor of the division's fallen Soldiers sat near the facility's main entrance.

Tarvin talked about his upcoming deployment that afternoon after finishing his

Thanksgiving meal. He will leave for Iraq next week and will take the stole with him. He said he will eventually hand it down to another, probably a young chaplain.

It is at a time like this, during the holiday season, that reminds him to be thankful for things like sacrifice and tradition. He looks at the stole and it reminds him of the sacrifices of the chaplain who wore it before. Traditions like the Thanksgiving dinner are important because it gives people a sense of belonging and stability, he said.

About 2,200 people attended the Thanksgiving dinner, said Col. Larry Phelps, rear

commander. He spent most of his time walking through the dining facility and visiting with family members, veterans and Soldiers before sitting down with his own family. In tradition with holiday meals, the highest-ranking Soldiers in the rear command served the food and they ate last.

During the church service, he said that while the division's Soldiers and their families face a difficult year, they have much to be thankful for. Those include being American citizens; being a part of the U.S. Army, Fort Hood and the Central Texas community; and the legacy of the First Team and its veterans.

Iraqis join Soldiers for Thanksgiving meal

Tradition

From Page 1

and put it on their plates. As they passed through the DFAC they greeted everyone with a smile and a message, "Happy Thanksgiving."

The IA soldiers had not only learned to say "Happy Thanksgiving" in English, but what the holiday meant.

"Sharing this meal is a time that we (Iraqis and Americans) can come together and be thankful that we have each other," said Maj. Mahssen, the 4th Bn., 4th Bde., 6th IA Div. executive officer. "We come and eat together as brothers."

Sharing a Thanksgiving meal was important to many of the U.S. Soldiers who feel the

Iraqi soldiers are like family.

"I feel great that we are inviting them (the Iraqi soldiers) to share our culture with us since they always share their culture with them," said Pvt. Sean Mathis, an infantryman with 4-31 and native of Sandersville, Ga. "Eating with them is like the same concept of eating with our families - they are like family."

Sharing Thanksgiving was only one of the things U.S. and Iraqi soldiers do together.

"We do everything combined here - from sharing security to sharing strong points," said Lt. Col. Michael Infanti, the 4-31 commander and native of Stafford, Va. "I wanted them to share this occasion with us."

Behind the scenes of the occasion were the food service specialists who were up bright

and early preparing the meal while most of the infantrymen were patrolling the area.

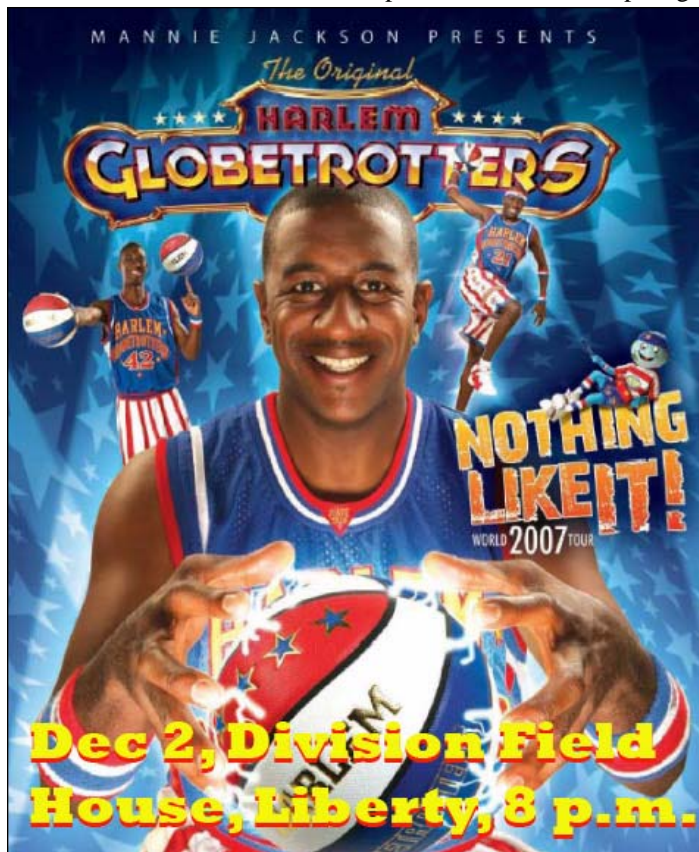
While most people have their fine china out for Thanksgiving, the food service specialists of 4-31 worked in a small, hot kitchen using the only utensils they had for hours preparing a meal for their fellow Soldiers.

For most of the 4-31 and Iraqi soldiers the meal was just a small break for the day. After eating they continued their mis-

sions and reflected on what they were truly thankful for.

"Today was just like any other morning. The bad guys don't take holidays and if we are not out there someone is going to get hurt," Infanti said. "But I am thankful for one thing - no one was injured or killed today."

Just as Thanksgiving was a symbol of unity between the Pilgrims and Indians in 1621 it was today for the Americans and Iraqis.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs)

Spc. Dustin Owen, a native of Franklinville, N.Y., who serves as a food service specialist with the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, cuts turkey during the preparation for the Thanksgiving meal in Yusufiyah, Iraq.

Trigger Pull:**Rivalry Week Highlights Weekend Pigskin Slate****By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
& Pfc. Ben Gable**

Let's get down to business: last week the two of us stunk at picking winners in the National Football League. Dallas had the audacity to hang a loss on undefeated Indianapolis. (We both went 1-2 for the week).

Therefore, we will not be picking NFL games this week. However, college gridiron action truly takes center stage on your TV dial tonight and early tomorrow morning.

It's "Rivalry Week," sports fans! And it's up to us to pick our ... er, winners. Here goes:

Texas A&M at Texas (11)

"The Longhorns are looking to clinch the Big 12 South title this weekend," Gable said. "They're going to do it, too. UT has the number one rated run defense in the nation, and the Aggies are a run-dominant team. That spells disaster for A&M ... especially in Austin."

"Duh!" Larsen retorted. "Pick the home team, which is probably favored by double-digits? No-brainer. What does the barber say? Next!"

LSU (9) at Arkansas (5)

"Are the Hogs for real? We'll find out this weekend," Larsen opined. "For my



(Photo by Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, 1st Cv. Div. Public Affairs)

Local sports buffs Master Sgt. Dave Larsen (left) and Pfc. Ben Gable square off their football views.

money, they'll prevail and drop the Tigers out of any BCS consideration, making a case for some serious bowling dinero for themselves."

"OK, I'll play devil's advocate," Gable quipped. "LSU has won four of the last five meetings and this week they'll stop Heisman hopeful Darren McFadden. The Tigers claw out a hard fought road win."

Georgia Tech (16) at Georgia

"Georgia has won all five of the previous meetings in the Governor's Cup under head coach Mark Richt," Gable began. "This weekend, Dawgs' quarterback Matthew Stafford solidifies his destiny to become a hall of famer. Dawgs win, 77-0.

Go Dawgs!"

"Pfc. Gable, I need you to head down to the orderly room and report for your urinalysis test ... as soon as we complete this farce of a column," Larsen directed. "I don't need random facts to figure out that you're on drugs! The Yellow Jackets are on the road, but they're on a roll this year. I'll take the 'Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia Tech" in this one."

Florida (4) at Florida State

United front: the Gators can play; the Seminoles reek this year.

Notre Dame (6) at USC (3)

"Finally, a game with national championship implications," Larsen said. "Pete Carroll was quoted this week saying that he and Charlie Weiss are very different coaches, because he comes from California and Weiss is a New Jersey boy. I'm not sure what that means, but I'm going with Jersey and the Irish."

"The Trojans are, once again, peaking at the right time," Gable said. "They will shred Notre Dame's porous defense and reek havoc in the BCS Championship Series."

There you have it! Another great football weekend awaits you, if you get time to watch it. Check your AFN listings for a favorite ball game near you!

(Go Packers!)



(Photo by Spc. Chris McCann, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs)

10th Mtn. helps Iraqi Army keep the peace in Lutifiyah

Cpl. Clayton Carroll, a native of Pleasanton, Calif., and a radio operator for 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, poses with 'Ahmad,' an Iraqi Army soldier, at a joint U.S.-Iraqi operation in Lutifiyah, Iraq, Nov. 21.